

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02

SCI-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 AID-20 CAB-09 FAA-00

DOT-00 EUR-25 AGR-20 FMC-04 CG-00 /208 W

----- 041537

R 190920Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 24

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LRUESWO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2239

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEHTASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN ENRG ID

SUBJ: FUEL SHORTAGE: BUNKER AND AVIATION FUEL

REF: A. JAKARTA 14151 B. JAKARTA 14038 C. JAKARTA 14658

D. STATE 234084

1. SUMMARY. FUEL AVAILABILITIES APPEAR TO HAVE TAKEN A TURN
FOR THE WORSE, AND WE ARE IN DOUBT WHETHER LOCAL ADMINISTRATION
HAS YET CAUGHT UP WITH EVOLVING SITUATION. TASK OF ALLOCATING

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BUNKER HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO BUNKERING TEAM UNDER GOI
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SEA COMMUNICATIONS (SEACOMS). THERE

ARE REPORTS THAT BUNKER STOCKS SEVERELY DEPLETED FOR REMAINDER OF DECEMBER. REGARDING AVIATION FUEL, CONTRARY TO IMPLICATIONS REF B, INDONESIANS ARE NO LONGER SUPPLYING UNSCHEDULED FLIGHTS BY NON-NATIONAL CARRIERS. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

2. WHILE NO ANNOUNCEMENT HAS YET BEEN MADE, GOI INTERDEPARTMENTAL "BUNKERING TEAM" IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN FORMED DECEMBER 4 FOR PURPOSE OF DETERMINING BUNKER ALLOCATIONS IN CURRENT SHORTAGE SITUATION. ITS FUNCTION TO DATE IS SOMETHING OF A MYSTERY SINCE THE OFFICIALS IDENTIFIED TO US AS HAVING KEY ROLE HAVE PROVED, UPON INQUIRY, TO BE ABSENT OR ABROAD, OR ELSE TO HAVE ONLY PERIPHERAL INTEREST IN IT. APPEARS AT THIS STAGE, HOWEVER, THAT CHAIRMANSHIP IS VESTED IN SEACOMS OFFICIAL, WITH INPUTS FROM MINISTRIES OF TRADE, MINES, INDUSTRY, AND FROM BULOG, PERTAMINA, AND INDONESIAN SHIPPING ASSOCIATION.

3. SINCE DESPATCH REF A SEVERAL REPORTS REACHING THE EMBASSY INDICATE BUNKER ALLOCATION SYSTEM IS GETTING MUCH TIGHTER:
ITEM: P N TIMAH, STATE TIN COMPANY, UNABLE TO MOVE DECEMBER SHIPMENTS (REF C).

ITEM: SHIP CARRYING 12,000 TONS CANADIAN WHEAT STANDING OFF TANJUNG PRIOK SINCE DECEMBER 8 BECAUSE CAPTAIN UNABLE TO OBTAIN BUNKER, DESPITE BULOG ASSURANCES TO THE CONTRARY, AND WILL NOT DISCHARGE CARGO UNTIL HE DOES GET IT. SAME SHIPPING LINE UNDER CONTRACT TO DELIVER CIRCA 60,000 TONS RICE FROM US FIRMMEONNELL IN COURSE OF NEXT TWO MONTHS.
ITEM: ONE OF LEADING INDONESIAN SHIPPING COMPANIES, ALSO AN AGENT FOR FOREIGN LINES, SAID TO HAVE ONLY 800TON ALLOCATION FOR ALL ITS OWN AND REPRESENTED VESSELS TO END OF MONTH.

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ITEM: WHILE MARINE DIESEL FUEL CURRENTLY QUOTED AT \$83 PER TON, CMBALCK AMRKET PRODUCT OF SAME GRADE SAID TO GO FOR \$112. RUMORSZAS IT THAT SHIP'S CAPTAIN CAN DOUBLE THE AMOUNT OF BUNKER HE IS AUTHORIZED TO TAKE ON IF HE PAYS THE BLACK MARKET RATE IN CASH FOR THE EXCESS, AND FORGETS
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ABOUT A RECEIPT.

4. VARIOUS OFFICIALS INFORM US THAT BUNKER FOR DECEMBER IS ENTIRELY EXHAUSTED, OR IS EXHAUSTED EXCEPT FOR 13,000 TONS, OR IS SUFFICIENT ONLY FOR PETROLEUM TANKERS AND SHIPS CARRYING FERTILIZER IMPORTS, OR THAT FOREIGN-FLAG TANKERS ARE LIMITED TO 200 TONS OF BUNKER WHILE PERTAMINA'S OWN FLEET CAN OBTAIN ENOUGH FOR ROUND-TRIP TO ITS DESTINATION, OR THAT INDONESIAN FLAG

VESSELS ARE HAVING TO CONTENT THEMSELVZE WITH REDUCED BUNKER ALLOCATIONS. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

IN SHORT, IT IS ONLY CLEAR THAT FOREIGN-FLAG SHIPS CALLING IN INDONESIA CANNOT BE ASSURED OF OBTAINING BUNKER--NOT EVEN, AS OF NOW, IF CARRYING FOOD AND ARMED WITH BUNKER SUPPLY ASSURANCES FROM BULOG. TO DATE WE ARE UNABLE TO DETERMINE WHO HAS ALFECTIVE AUTHORITY TO ISSUE SUCH ASSURANCES.

5. WITH REGARD TO AVIATION FUEL, WE NOW RPT NOW INFORMED THAT PERTAMINA IS APPROVING NO RPT NO ALLOCATIONS FOR FOREIGN-FLAG NONSCHEDULED FLIGHTS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF OFFICIAL FLIGHTS. UNDERSTAND INTERNATIONAL AVIATION COMMUNITY HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THIS BY NOTAM. DOMESTIC CARRIERS OBTAIN "USUAL"AMOUNTS; ANY INCREASE REQUIRES HEAD OFFICE APPROVAL.

6. SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT DISSEMINATE ABOVE INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE TO US SHIPPING AND CIVAIR AINTERESTS.
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